



STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

P.O. BOX 83720
BOISE, IDAHO 83720-0027

TOM LUNA
STATE SUPERINTENDENT
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

November 6, 2008

TO: Superintendents, Principals, Business Managers, Charter School Administrators, Title I Directors, Special Education Directors, Testing Coordinators, Technology Coordinators and Public Information Officers

FROM: Tom Luna, Superintendent of Public Instruction

RE: Weekly E-Newsletter

IN THIS REPORT:

- **Veterans' Day is Tuesday, November 11**
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VETERANS' DAY IS TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 11 (GO TO TOP)

Idaho Code 33-512 requires that "Each Veterans Day, each school in session shall conduct and observe an appropriate program of at least one (1) class period remembering and honoring American veterans ..."

To assist Idaho schools program planning, the State Department of Education has posted the lesson plan *Medal of Honor: Portraits of Valor Beyond the Call of Duty* online at http://www.sde.state.id.us/site/social_studies/. This lesson plan is to be used in conjunction with the book by the same name. A donation of this book has been made to each high school library through the generosity of Albertsons and in cooperation with the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation. The lesson plan will allow students to focus on the true meanings of courage, sacrifice and patriotism as they explore America's history.

Many other lesson ideas, school kits, and teacher resources about Veterans' Day can also be found at the U.S. Department of Veterans' Affairs web site at <http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/index.asp>.

Please note: The State Department of Education will remain open on Veterans' Day, Tuesday, November 11, 2008. Even though Veterans' Day is a state holiday, Idaho's public schools and districts remain open on this day. Therefore, in an effort to create a more customer-drive public education system, Superintendent Luna is keeping the Department operating on Columbus Day and Veterans Day this year -- two holidays that schools and districts do not take off -- so SDE employees are on hand to provide customer service and technical assistance while schools are open. In exchange, SDE employees will take holidays on the day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve, when schools are not in session.

Please feel free to contact the Department or Department staff as needed on Columbus Day. If you plan to stop by the office in person, please note that only one entrance to the building will be open on the East side of the building.



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DEPARTMENT STAFF TO PRESENT AT ISBA CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK (GO TO TOP)

Superintendent of Public Instruction Tom Luna and staff from the State Department of Education will be presenting at several sessions at the Idaho School Boards Association Conference on November 13-14 in Boise. Here is a list of the Department's sessions for your planning purposes:

Presenter:	Workshop Topic:	Date:	Time:	Assigned Room:
Superintendent Luna	Q & A with Supt. Luna	Nov. 13	10:00 – 11:00 am	Emerald
Marcia Beckman	Restructuring	Nov. 13	10:00 – 11:00 am	Aspen
Marcia Beckman	Restructuring	Nov. 14	11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Aspen
Melissa McGrath, SDE Mark Browning, OSBE	On the Record	Nov. 13	3:00 – 4:00 pm	Quiet Bar
Nick Smith	HS Grad Requirements	Nov. 13	10:00 – 11:00 am	Garnet
Nick Smith	HS Grad Requirements	Nov. 14	11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Liberty
Nick Smith	Four-Day School Week	Nov. 14	2:30 – 3:30 pm	Garnet
Nick Smith	Evaluating Performance	Nov. 14	3:45 – 4:45 pm	Garnet
Rob Sauer	M.S. Taskforce	Nov. 13	3:00 – 4:00 pm	Delamar
Rob Sauer	Concurrent Credit	Nov. 14	11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Delamar
Rob Sauer	Concurrent Credit	Nov. 14	2:30 – 3:30 pm	Delamar
Rob Sauer	M.S. Taskforce	Nov. 14	3:45 – 4:45 pm	Delamar
Matt McCarter	School Safety & Security	Nov. 13	3:00 – 4:00 pm	Garnet
Jacque Hyatt & Jean Taylor	Special Education	Nov. 14	11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Opal
Marybeth Flachbart	Catch Them Before They Fall	Nov. 14	11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Riverside Boardroom
Cindy Johnstone	Idaho Math Initiative	Nov. 14	11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Topaz
Tim Hill	School Finance	Nov. 14	2:30 – 3:30 pm	Topaz
Troy Wheeler	Longitudinal Data	Nov. 14	11:15 am – 12:15 pm	Emerald

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE (GO TO TOP)

- Superintendent Luna will attend a Patriotic Assembly at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, November 12, at Trail Wind Elementary School in Boise.



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- Superintendent Luna will attend the groundbreaking ceremony for the new location of North Star Charter School at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 12 in Eagle.

WHAT'S NEW (GO TO TOP)

- **Maintenance on SDE web site Monday** -- The State Department of Education web site will be down temporarily from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. on Monday, November 10, 2008 for routine maintenance. If you need assistance during this time, please call (208) 332-6800. Thank you for your patience!
- **Corrected dates for 21st CCLC grant applications** -- The deadline to apply for federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) grants is **January 30, 2009**. Successful applications will be notified on **April 30, 2009**. These dates were incorrect in the October 30 Weekly E-Newsletter. For more information on these grants or to learn about a Bidder's Workshop in your area, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/cclc/grants.htm> or call (208) 332-6960.
- **IRI materials request deadline** -- The deadline to submit the IRI materials request form is **Monday, November 10, 2008**. If the form is not submitted by this date, we cannot guarantee the order will be delivered before districts close for winter holidays. For more information, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/reading_indicator/.
- **November School Improvement Webinar** -- The Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools Webinar scheduled for November 20, 2008 will focus on Effective School Leadership. The specific topic of the webinar is Optimizing Time and Resources and will include information on effective grouping options, scheduling and pacing calendars. Lisa Kinnaman and Deb Pfof will present the webinar at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. MST. The same presentation will be delivered at both available times, as this material is appropriate for elementary and secondary educators. The estimated time for the webinar is 45 minutes. There is no charge for participation. You can register at www.idahodigitallearning.org by selecting the "Idaho Live" tab and clicking "Register for Webinar." Please contact Lisa Kinnaman or Katherine Weatherspoon at (208) 426-4852 with any questions.
- **Donations for Homeless Education Programs** -- In an effort to aid homeless education programs in a particularly difficult economy, the State Department of Education is beginning an ongoing project to distribute hotel toiletries collected by Department staff while traveling on business. If your school or district has a need, and you are interested in receiving these toiletries, please contact Camille Wells at CWells@sde.idaho.gov. Requests will be filled in the order they are received. If you have any other questions or concerns about homeless education in Idaho, please feel free to contact Karen Seay at the Department at (208) 332-6978 or KJSeay@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Nominations for Humanities Teacher Award** -- The Idaho Humanities Council is now accepting nominations for the 2008 Outstanding Teacher of the Humanities Award. The Council will honor one elementary and one secondary teacher of the humanities. Two awards of \$2,000 each will be selected in December 2008. Each teacher will receive \$1,000 for themselves and \$1,000 for their school to enhance the teaching of the humanities. The deadline to nominate a teacher is **December 1, 2008**. Awards will be presented in February 2009. For more information, please visit www.idahohumanities.org and click on the "News" link.



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- **Christopher Columbus Awards** -- The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation is now accepting entries for the Christopher Columbus Awards program. The awards program is a national, community-based science and technology program for 6th-8th grade students. It challenges students to work in teams of three or four, with an adult coach, to identify a problem in their community and apply scientific method to create an innovative solution to that problem. For more information, please visit www.christophercolumbusawards.com. The deadline for submission is February 9, 2009.
- **NNU Special Olympics course** – Northwest Nazarene University is offering graduate credit for all educators who teach the 2009 Special Olympics World Winter Games K-12 curriculum, which has been mailed to all public and private Idaho schools. The deadline to enroll in the course for the spring is **January 12, 2009**. The course, titled ED550 Education to Make a Difference, is designed so that educators will learn to teach a series of concise and engaging K-12 lessons about valuing diversity through involvement with the Special Olympics. To register, please visit <https://www.nnu.edu/cereg>. If you have questions, please e-mail Mary Gervase at marymgervase@yahoo.com.
- **Commission for Libraries will present at ISBA Conference** -- The Idaho Commission for Libraries will present at the Idaho School Boards Association Conference in Boise from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 13. The one-hour session will discuss initiatives to broaden services to school library media center staff and delve into how to meet the challenges of the workplace in a fast-paced and ever-changing environment. For more information, please contact Ann Joslin, State Librarian, at ann.joslin@libraries.idaho.gov or visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/school-libraries>.
- **Teaching of Writing grants** -- Each year, the College Board recognizes exceptional teachers of grades 6-12 for the innovative methods they use to develop their students' writing skills through the Bob Costas Grants for the Teaching of Writing grants. Grants of \$3,000 each will be awarded to teachers who are doing an inspiring job of teaching their students to write and who will benefit most from a grant to enhance a successful project. The deadline to apply is **November 21, 2008**. Please visit <http://professionals.collegeboard.com/k-12/awards/costas> to learn more.
- **Scholarship for educators** -- The Horace Mann Scholarship Program for Educators is offering scholarships for educators in public and private schools to take college courses. The maximum award is \$5,000. Educators must be employed by a U.S. public or private school district or U.S. public or private college/university at the time of application and at the time the scholarship is awarded, and must have at least two years of teaching experience. The deadline to apply is **March 12, 2009**. Please visit <https://www.horacemann.com/resources/scholarships/default.aspx> for more information.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN OUR SCHOOLS (GO TO TOP)

This week's highlight in on... Mountain View High School in Meridian

Mountain View High School in the Meridian School District has developed an innovative way to teach students about personal finance and banking. The school has partnered with Idaho Central Credit Union to open a credit union branch in the school.



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The branch is open during third period, lunch and eighth period. Students and teachers can stop by and set up a checking account, deposit savings, apply for a loan, or just cash a check.

Mountain View High School is a career academy high school. The school has eight majors that are business-related. The partnership with the credit union gives students the opportunity to have an internship in the business world while taking classes on the same topic. The student employees are responsible for having their cash drawers out and counted and balancing the cash drawers as they do transactions, deposits and withdrawals for other students that come. They also visit classrooms during the school year and present information on savings, credit and interest to other students in the school.

PBS highlighted this program in a segment last year. To watch the segment online, please visit http://www.pbs.org/newshour/thenews/thedollar/story.php?id=3046&package_id=631.

"What's Happening in Our Schools?" is a feature that appears in each edition of the Weekly E-Newsletter. It is an opportunity for us to share the great things that are happening in Idaho's public schools on a statewide level. If you have something great happening in your school, please e-mail it to Melissa McGrath at MRMcGrath@sde.idaho.gov with "What's Happening in Our Schools" in the subject line.

REMINDERS (GO TO TOP)

- **School Improvement Webinars** -- The State Department of Education hosted a webinar workshop on the research-based system of school organization called the 3-Tier Model this week. In case you missed it, the webinar has been archived on the IdahoLive web site at the following links:
For elementary: http://67.202.210.70/launcher.cgi?room=SDE_IdahoBuildingCapacitypro_2008_1028_1214_12
For secondary: http://67.202.210.70/launcher.cgi?room=SDE_IdahoBuildingCapacitypro_2008_1028_1707_12
- **Parent Leadership Training** -- A free one-day Parent Leadership Training will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, November 22 at the Idaho Education Association offices, 620 N. 6th Street, Boise. This is a training for parents or staff who want to increase parent involvement in the community or in their work and who are interested in building parent leaders. The deadline to register is November 7, 2008. For more information, please contact Shelli Hansen or Roger Sherman at (208) 386-9317 or e-mail hansenm2@dhw.idaho.gov.
- **School Immunization Module** -- The IRIS School Immunization Module is a free statewide system that will reduce time spent collecting and managing immunization records. The IRIS School Module gives school personnel special access to the Immunization Reminder Information System (IRIS), Idaho's voluntary immunization registry. This module will allow schools to not only view immunization records in IRIS, but also add records and create school-specific reports. Starting in Fall 2009, the Idaho School Immunization Report can be completed using the IRIS School Module. The Idaho School Immunization Report is required to be completed annually by all Idaho schools with students enrolled in kindergarten, first, or seventh grade. To learn more or enroll in the IRIS School Module, visit the "Schools" section of the IRIS homepage at <https://iris.idaho.gov>.
- **Free youth suicide prevention training** -- Idaho State University is sponsoring free youth suicide prevention trainings. The training session includes warning signs of mental illness in youth, risk and protective factors for suicide and practical information on how to talk to youth who are at risk. Seating is limited, so register early. For



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more information, contact Marsha Tracy at preventsuicide@isu.edu or (208) 373.1799. The trainings will be held from 8 a.m. to noon on the following dates:

- January 22, 2009 in Garden City
- February 3, 2009 in Twin Falls
- March 3, 2009 in Sandpoint
- April 8, 2009 in Idaho Falls

- **ELD Math and Science Standards workshop** -- The State Department of Education, in conjunction with WestEd, is hosting ELD Math and Science Standards Workshops aimed at training math and science teachers at the elementary, middle, and high school level to train other teachers in assisting LEP students with excelling in math and science. Each district is strongly encouraged to bring a math and science instructor, an ESL/bilingual instructor and administrator to these trainer-of-trainer workshops. To register for a workshop, please visit <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/forms/eld/>. All workshops will all be held from 8 a.m. to noon on the following dates:

- Nampa: November 4, 2008 at the Nampa Civic Center
- Twin Falls: November 20, 2008 at College of Southern Idaho's Herrett Center
- Idaho Falls: November 21, 2008 at Eastern Idaho Technical College's Alexander D. Creek Building

If you are traveling from northern Idaho please contact Tyrel Trainor, Administrative Assistant Title III/LEP, at (208) 332-6942 or tstrainor@sde.idaho.gov so he can arrange to pay for travel to the Idaho Falls or Nampa workshops.

- **Education News Parents Can Use** -- The U.S. Department of Education hosts a regular TV series about ways to ensure children's educational success. The next "Education News Parents Can Use" broadcast, focusing on costs of higher education and federal aid programs, is scheduled for November 18, 2008 (8 p.m. ET). For more information, please visit <http://www.ed.gov/edtv/>.
- **We Are Family Conference** -- The 2009 We Are Family Conference for Idahoans with disabilities and their families will be held January 13-16, 2009 in Boise. The conference is sponsored by the Idaho State Independent Living Council, Idaho Parents Unlimited and the Idaho Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health. For more information, please visit <http://www.silc.idaho.gov/>.
- **Virtues Conference 2008** -- Northwest Nazarene University and the Idaho ASCD invite teachers, counselors and administrators to participate in the Virtues conference, which will be held November 20-21, 2008 on the NNU campus in Nampa. Inspiring speakers and founders of The Virtues Project Linda Kavelin Popov and Dr. Dan Popov will help you create a school environment that includes: student leadership, stress reduction for test fatigue, creating an environment for academic excellence, a 90-day plan for positive change and ways to transform classroom and school violence to virtues. Visit <http://www.nnu.edu/virtues> to register.
- **ASVAB** -- The Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) program is one way to help students identify a future career path. The ASVAB program is a comprehensive career exploration and planning program that includes a multiple-aptitude test battery, interest inventory and various career planning tools designed to help the student explore the world of work. The program is free of charge. Please consider using ASVAB in your school or school district. For more information, you can contact: David Hodson, at (208) 334-1450 ext. 213 or david.a.hodson@mepcom.army.mil or Colleen Owen at (208) 334-1450 ext.214 or



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colleen.owen@mepcom.army.mil. Schools in Northern Idaho, north of New Meadows should call Fred Bernize at (509) 353 3105 ext. 242 or fred.bernize@mepcom.army.mil.

- **Early Years 2008 conference** – The Early Years 2008 conference will be held November 18-19, 2008 at Boise State University for parents and early childhood professionals from an array of disciplines. The conference will highlight the many interrelated aspects of growth that impact a child's development. For more information or to register, please visit www.idahochild.org.

UPCOMING DEADLINES (GO TO TOP)

- **Nov. 7, 2008** – The deadline for elementary schools to apply for a chance to receive one of ten \$15,000 grants from the makers of Hidden Valley® Salad Dressings. Each grant award will support an elementary school in developing a program offering fresh vegetables and fruits lasting through the 2009-10 school year. Each school grant will consist of \$15,000 in direct funding, and a one-time donation of Hidden Valley® Original Ranch® Light Dressing. Funding must be spent on any of the following: Fresh produce, a vegetable station, kitchen equipment, program staffing, nutrition education supplies and/or training. All proposals must be submitted online at www.LoveYourVeggiesGrants.org.
- **Nov. 10, 2008** – The deadline for school districts and charter schools to submit the 2007-2008 Independent Audit Report. Idaho Code 33-701(6), which requires submission of the independent audit report, was modified during the 2008 Legislative Session. Not only was the due date changed from October 15 to November 10, but penalties for late submission were also added. If the SDE has not received your report on or before November 10, your November 15 foundation payment may be withheld until the report is received. Please work with your auditor and school board to ensure submission prior to November 10. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Oberle at (208) 332-6840 or JAOberle@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Nov. 10, 2008** -- The deadline to submit the IRI materials request form. If the form is not submitted by this date, we cannot guarantee the order will be delivered before districts close for winter holidays. For more information, please visit http://www.sde.idaho.gov/site/reading_indicator/.
- **Nov. 14, 2008** -- The deadline to submit attendance and enrollment reports to the State Department of Education. If you need assistance in submitting your reports or have questions on attendance and enrollment reporting, please contact Greg Berg Coordinator Public School Finance at: GDBerg@sde.idaho.gov.
- **Nov. 14, 2008** -- The deadline to apply for the National Excellence in Urban Education Award. The award recognizes the dedication and talent of urban school educators and students, provides a benchmark of excellence that motivates reform efforts and deepens the knowledge base of best practices for promoting urban school transformation. For more information or to apply, please visit <http://www.ncust.org>.
- **Nov. 17, 2008** -- The deadline to submit an application to become a Capacity Builder for the Idaho Building Capacity Project. For more information, please visit <http://csi.boisestate.edu/Page471.htm>.



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- **Nov. 28, 2008** – The deadline to enter into the Council for America's First Freedom's 16th annual First Freedom Student Competition. The competition is a national essay contest that offers students in grades 9-12 an opportunity to compete for a \$3,000, \$1,500 or \$750 award as they examine the First Amendment and the history and relevance of religious freedom in America and the world today. For more information on this competition, please visit www.firstfreedom.org. Registration is due by Monday, November 24, 2008, and the postmark entry deadline is November 28, 2008.
- **Dec. 1, 2008** -- The deadline to complete Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 and Subpart 1 Surveys. Please visit the following web sites to access the surveys:
 - Title I, Part D, Subpart 1 <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/neglected/Online/StateSurvey.asp>
 - Title I, Part D, Subpart 2 <http://www.sde.idaho.gov/neglected/Online/LocalSurvey.asp>
- **Dec. 1, 2008** -- The deadline to submit entries for the Idaho section of the American Nuclear Society and Idaho National Laboratory's 2008 Southeastern Idaho High School Essay Contest, which is open to students in 9-12 grades. The essay topic is to discuss nuclear energy and its implications for lowering atmospheric carbon dioxide emissions that have been linked to global climate change. For more information, please visit http://local.ans.org/idaho/ans/News/Entries/2008/12/1_Idaho_ANS_Essay_Contest.html.
- **Dec. 4, 2008** -- The deadline to submit Alternative Authorization – Teacher to New Certificate requests. If you have questions, please contact Cina Oravez at (208) 332-6936 or CLOravez@sde.idaho.gov. Please submit complete application packets to Cina Oravez, Alternative Authorization Coordinator, prior to that date. You can mail applications to:

State Department of Education
ATTN: Cina Oravez
PO Box 83720
Boise, ID 83720-0027
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- **Dec. 5, 2008** -- The deadline to nominate a teacher for the Toyota Family Literacy Teacher of the Year Award, which will be given to educators who demonstrate exemplary efforts to help parents and children achieve their academic and non-academic goals. Please visit <http://www.familit.org/toyotateacher> for nomination guidelines.
- **Dec. 8, 2008** -- The deadline for school to apply for the National School or District of Character award by the Character Education Partnership (CEP). The purpose of the award is to honor these exemplars and facilitate their leadership in the field of character education. Visit www.character.org/nsoc for more information.
- **Dec. 12, 2008** -- The deadline to register for the National Geographic Bee. The contest is designed to encourage teachers to include geography in their classrooms, spark student interest in the subject, and increase public awareness about geography. For complete information on the Bee, visit www.nationalgeographic.com/geographicbee.
- **Dec. 31, 2008** -- The deadline to submit applications for Northwest Professional Educators \$250 New Classroom Start-Up Grants. Teachers who are new to the profession, their grade level or school district are eligible to apply. See www.nwpe.org for an application.



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- **Jan. 13, 2009** -- The deadline to apply for the Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator Fellowship, which is a paid fellowship for K-12 math, science, and technology teachers. Einstein Fellows spend a school year in Washington, DC serving in a federal agency or on Capitol Hill. Visit www.trianglecoalition.org/ein.htm to learn more or to apply online.
- **Jan. 20, 2008** -- The deadline for students to enter the C-SPAN "StudentCam" national video documentary competition, which is open to middle school and high school students (grades 6-12). This year C-SPAN asks students to create a 5- to 8-minute video documentary that addresses an issue of national significance. For more information, please visit www.studentcam.org. If you have any questions, e-mail emartin@c-span.org or call (800) 523-7586.
- **Jan. 30, 2009** – The Idaho Dropout Summit has been scheduled at the Nampa Civic Center in Nampa. More details to come.